Tackling extremist forces in North East

1750. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what latest strategies Government have adopted to fight the menace perpetrated by extremist forces of North East Region like ULFA, BLT, NDF (B), NSCN (IM), NSCN (K), TNV, etc.;

(b) whether Government are planning to have peace talks with these organisations; and

(c) if not, whether Government are making plans to strike at the terrorist organisations with some harsh laws and to use structures like unified command?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The Government has taken various steps to fight against the militancy in the North Eastern States. These include, *inter-alia,* deployment of para-military forces and army in the States, coordinated action by army, para-military forces and State Police for counter militancy operations, declaration of major militant groups as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; declaration of militancy affected States as disturbed area under the Armed Forces (Special powers) Act, 1958; reimbursement of security related expenditure to the State Governments and modernization/upgradation of State Police Force. Regular review of the situation both at State and Central Government level is being made.

The Government has extended an invitation to all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness to come forward for talks within the four corners of our Constitution. Union Government have entered into ceasefire agreements with National Socialist Council of Nagaland (I/M faction) [NSCN (I/M)] on 25th July, 1997 and with Khaplang faction [NSCN(K)] on 28th April, 2001. In Assam, the Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) has come forward for peace talks abjuring the path of violence. Kuki National Army (KNA) of Manipur has offered for negotiation with Government. Other militant outfits have not responded for talks within the parameters indicated.

Expert group to look into Bio-terrorism threats

1751. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have formed any expert group of scientists and officials of investigating agencies to look into bio-terrorism threats as the FBI had been doing in the USA;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) what corrective measures Union Government have taken or proposed to take for protecting the people against bio-terrorism threats, including public awareness campaign; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view the reply to (a) above does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government has issued a detailed circular to all States and Union Territories containing a list of biological agents used as weapons, along-with signs and symptoms, likely method of dissemination, incubation period, lethality and the availability of vaccines, anti- microbial therapy and treatment. They have been requested to earmark maximum number of beds for emergency.

Contingency, stocking of vaccines/sera/drugs to the extent possible and setting up of special teams of doctors for coordinated action. It has also been requested that these Teams should be sensitized on the impact of such weapons and treatment measures.

A general awareness campaign regarding bio-terrorism been launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

In addition, all States/Union Territories have been sensitized to remain vigilant to the emerging threats to internal security and to have contingency plans in readiness to deal with any eventuality, including precautions against weapons of mass destruction.

Income-tax officials caught red handed by Delhi Police

1752. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vigilance Wing of Delhi Police have caught some Income-tax officials demanding and taking bribe from some persons during the last two years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action have been taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.